

## Message Text

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46

ACTION EA-14

INFO OCT-01 IO-14 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-07 H-03 INR-11

L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-07 PA-04 RSC-01 PRS-01 SP-03 SS-20

USIA-15 ARA-16 EB-24 OMB-01 TRSE-00 SWF-02 AGR-20

COME-00 AID-20 ACDA-19 SCI-06 AEC-11 CIEP-03 DRC-01

FEAE-00 /227 W

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FM AMEMBASSY CANBERRA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 4201

INFO USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

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E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, UN, AS

SUBJ: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S UNGA SPEECH SEPT 30

REF: USUN 3569

1. SUMMARY: PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S UNGA SPEECH OF SEPT 30 WIDELY REPORTED IN AUSTRALIAN PRESS OCT 1-2, AND EDITORIAL COMMENT GENERALLY FAVORABLE, THOUGH THERE WERE SOME SOUR NOTES. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, ANDREW PEACOCK, TERMED SPEECH "EXTRAORDINARY EXERCISE IN RHETORICAL CHICANERY" AND FULL OF INCONSISTENCIES. FOL SUMMARY OF AUSTRALIAN EDITORIAL COMMENT ON SPEECH MAY BE OF VALUE IN PREPARATION FOR WHITLAM MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OCT 4. END SUMMARY.

2. PRIME MINISTER WHITLAM'S UN SPEECH OF SEPT 30 (HIGH POINTS IN REFTEL) RECEIVED PROMINENT PRESS COVERAGE IN AUSTRALIA OCT 2 AND WAS SUBJECT OF NUMEROUS EDITORIALS. AUSTRALIAN PRESS ACCOMPANYING WHITLAM TENDED TO CONCENTRATE ON LESS SUBSTANTIVE ASPECTS AND GAVE SENSATIONAL TREATMENT, FOR EXAMPLE, TO WHITLAM REMARKS ON LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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PAGE 9 OF TEN-PAGE TEXT AS RELEASED IN CANBERRA, WHICH CONDEMNED

"ATTEMPT BY ANY STATE TO BRING ABOUT POLITICAL OR ECONOMIC CHANGE IN ANOTHER THROUGH UNCONSTITUTIONAL, CLANDESTINE, CORRUPT METHODS." PRESS TERMED THIS WHITLAM ATTACK ON U.S. CONDUCT IN CHILE.

3. EDITORIAL COMMENT WAS MORE BALANCED. MELBOURNE AGE TERMED UN "WORD FACTORY" WHERE RHETORIC CLOUDS REALITY." HOWEVER, IT CONCLUDED WHITLAM SPEECH HAD MADE HELPFUL CONTRIBUTION OPPOSING EVILS OF RACISM, COLONIALISM AND CONFLICT, PROMOTED PEACE, AND WAS CREDIT TO HIMSELF AND AUSTRALIA. SYDNEY MORNING HERALD, USUALLY CRITICAL OF WHITLAM, CONCLUDED THAT WHITLAM HAD ACQUITTED HIMSELF VERY WELL AND SAID SPEECH "ELOQUENTLY BUT SOMBERLY BALANCED THE ASPIRATIONS TOWARDS INTERNATIONAL PEACE AND COOPERATION ...AGAINST THE APPREHENSIONS ABOUT CONTEMPORARY CONTRARY TRENDS WHICH REALISM SHOULD COMPEL US TO RECOGNISE...."

4. HOWEVER, CANBERRA TIMES COMMENTED THAT WHITLAM HAD SAID ALL THE RIGHT THINGS, "BUT UNLESS THERE IS A RELENTLESS FOLLOW-UP TO GET ACTION ON SOME OF THE MORE PRACTICAL SUGGESTIONS HE MADE, IT (THE SPEECH) RUNS THE RISK OF BEING FORGOTTEN IN THE TORRENT OF WORDS AND PAPER FOR WHICH UN MEETINGS HAVE BECOME FAMOUS." PAPER SAID WHITLAM HAD REFERRED TO WORLD FOOD SUPPLY PROBLEM BUT SHOULD HAVE MADE SPECIFIC SUGGESTION FOR ACTION, ADDING THAT AUSTRALIA COULD DO LITTLE ABOUT NUCLEAR ARMS RACE OR PROMOTING ZONES OF PEACE, "BUT IT COULD DO MUCH TO ENSURE THAT FEWER PEOPLE DIE OF HUNGER OR SUBSIST ALL THEIR LIVES ON A STARVATION DIET. MR. WHITLAM HAS MISSED HIS OPPORTUNITY." MORE SENSATIONAL BUT WIDELY-CIRCULATED SYDNEY DAILY TELEGRAPH COMMENTED THAT WHITLAM SPEECH WAS FULL OF "19TH CENTURY RHETORIC," AND LIKENED PERFORMANCE TO STREET CORNER ORATOR TRYING TO BE CHURCHILLIAN. IT COMMENTED THAT SPEECH WAS "SILLY AND A BIT HYPOCRITICAL. TO BE BLUNT, PRIME MINISTER, CUT THE CACKLE AND GET BACK TO THE REAL JOB AT HOME."

5. OPPOSITION SPOKESMAN ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS PEACOCK COMMENTED IN CANBERRA OCT 1 THAT WHITLAM SPEECH WAS "EXTRAORDINARY EXERCISE IN RHETORICAL CHICANERY" AND FULL OF INCONSISTENCIES, CONTRASTING HIS SUPPORT FOR RIGHT OF ALL PEOPLE TO FREEDOM WITH HIS RECENT DECISION TO RECOGNIZE SOVIET ABSORPTION OF BALTIC STATES. NOTING WHITLAM REFERENCES TO THE THREAT OF A DETERIORATING WORLD SITUATION, PEACOCK SAID THAT PRIME MINISTER "HAS AT LAST ACCEPTED LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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THE OPPOSITION'S VIEW THAT DETENTE IS FRAGILE AND THAT UNCERTAINTY IN WORLD SITUATION IS GREATER AT PRESENT THAN AT ALMOST ANY TIME IN THE PAST."

6. COMMENT: AUSTRALIAN PRESS HAD REPORTED SEPT 30 POINT MADE BY ALAN RENOUF (SECRETARY OF DEPT OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS) IN PRE-DELIVERY BACKGROUND BRIEFING FOR PRESS THAT WHITLAM WOULD NOTE AUSTRALIA'S ALLIANCE WITH U.S. HIS SPEECH ACTUALLY SAID, IN

MIDDLE OF TEXT, "AUSTRALIA IS OF COURSE ALLIED BY TREATY WITH THE UNITED STATES, AND WE MAKE NO APOLOGIES FOR IT." THIS POINT WAS REPORTED IN PRESS, BUT IGNORED IN EDITORIAL COMMENT, BUT AUSTRALIANS GENERALLY TEND TO TAKE ANZUS FOR GRANTED AS PERMANENT FEATURE OF POLITICAL HORIZON.

7. EMBASSY ASSUMES THAT TEXT OF WHITLAM UNGA SPEECH AVAILABLE TO DEPT OR IS OBTAINABLE FROM AUSTRALIAN EMBASSY. FOREGOING SUMMARY OF EDITORIAL AND OPPOSITION REACTION MAY BE USEFUL IN PREPARATION FOR WHITLAM MEETING WITH PRESIDENT OCT 4.  
GREEN

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